

HIT Payment Reform- VT Meeting Minutes & Action Items

JULY 8, 2009

8:00-10:30AM

133 STATE STREET , 5TH FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM

MEETING CALLED BY	Sen. Bill Carris, Co- Chair and Rep. Anne O'Brien, Co- Chair; Hunt Blair, Deputy Director for Health Care Reform, OVHA
TYPE OF MEETING	Legislative Summer work group on Health information Technology for Payment Reform
FACILITATOR	Anne O'Brien, Co- Chair
NOTE TAKERS	Hunt Blair and Anne O'Brien
ATTENDEES	Tom Murray, Commissioner, Dept. of Information and Innovation; David Gruppo, IBM; Rob Willey, IBM Govt Relations; Joshua Slen, Interim CEO VITL, Jim Hester, Vermont Healthcare Reform Commission Director; John Grubmuller, VP Health and Human Services, First Data; Jean Landsverk, Gov't and Education, First Data; Nolan Langweil, Joint Fiscal Office; Craig Jones, M.D. Vt Blueprint for Health; Kevin Goddard, VP for External Affairs, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Hunt Blair, Senator Bill Carris, Representative Anne O'Brien

REVIEW CHARGE IN H 441

ANNE O'BRIEN

DISCUSSION	Handed out and reviewed the H. 441 pages 123, 124 Sec. E 102.1 Health Information Technology for Payment Reform Work Group membership and charge.	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Explore opportunity for using HIT to achieve health care payment reform including smart card technology and mechanisms to enable real time eligibility determinations and claims preparation and adjudication. 2) Identify potential sources of funding including grants and other federal funds. 3) Develop one or more proposals for appropriate funds including those under ARRA(American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) 4) Create a working plan for implementation of HIT payment reform initiatives for further action by the work group by August 31, 2009. 	
CONCLUSIONS	<p>Need to get very clear as to the scope of this for this timeframe with August 31, 2009 deadline for initial report and recommendations. Need to identify the current status and the future vision and gaps which will clarify next steps and action items in the proposal. Need to align with the State HIT plan. Need to meet HIPAA and HIT Federal Standards and VITL privacy and security standards.</p> <p>The goal of the work group is a statewide initiative that would ultimately provide for comprehensive electronic adjudication of health care claims. An immediate step to inform the group's understanding will be to review the current state of such (primarily batch) transactions to see what is required to achieve the vision of a real time (or close to real time) transactional system. The model that was offered was the type of system some dentists and dental insurers have in place, where the dentist and insured patient can see what is and isn't covered by their insurance, and thus, what a consumer would owe. Concept overview by Dave Gruppo: This payment reform project has three key elements 1) Providers 2) Hub for Transactions 3) Payers.</p> <p>Potential benefits: Decrease transactional Costs, estimated that administration costs can be decreased up to 15%. Increase efficiency by decreasing timeframe for payment.</p>	
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Draft a "current status" flow or diagram of health payment process in Vermont.	WHO?	
<p>Draft a vision of the desired outcome which will include technology .</p> <p>Get specific information presented from First Data on the current use of smart card.</p> <p>Get specific information from IBM on the proposed hub function between the providers and the payors.</p>	<p>Jean Landsverk and John Grubmuller, First Data</p> <p>Diane Hawkins to schedule WebEx meeting</p>	Prior to July 22 meeting

STAKEHOLDERS: DO WE HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE HERE?

DISCUSSION	Question by Jim Hester, Health Care Reform Commission , Director
Stakeholders in payment reform- who needs to be here? What about Vermont Medical Society, VAHHS, UVM Researchers? Is there anyone else?	

MVP and CIGNA were invited and not represented at this meeting and it is important to include them. Would be useful to find a practice management group to include in our planning process. Discussed Central Vermont since it is close by.		
CONCLUSIONS	We need to include provider and payer perspectives from the front end.	
Paul Harrington, Bea Grause and Melody Burkins should be included in the future meetings.		
New VITL Director David Cochran will be here for the next meeting. Need to meet with him to get his perspective on this.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Call Paul Harrington, VMS and invite to next meeting Call Bea Grause, VAHHS and invite to next meeting Call Melody Burkins, UVM Research and Development and invite to next meeting	Hunt Blair/ Anne O'Brien	July 22 meeting
Set up meeting with new VITL CEO prior to July 22 meeting	Diane Hawkins	Set for July 17 at 1:30 PM in Williston OVHA office.

SCOPE OF THE WORK

ALL

DISCUSSION	Hans K stated that at this time focus should be on ambulatory care and physician practices and not include hospital billing systems. Focus should not be on “ smart card” rather on increasing efficiency and decreasing duplication in the billing process.		
Discussion on the scope including the need for a statewide plan verses a “pilot”. Conclusion was that state wide would strengthen the proposal for Washington. Some concern about scope creep and whether we should include any clinical aspects in this proposal. Need to identify the current number of physician practices in Vermont to determine scope.			
Discussion about the idea of understanding the smart card technology as a “key” like the key to a car. It is a functional and important item to make the system work.			
CONCLUSIONS	No conclusions, some variation in understandings and will need to conclude next meeting once we have a better understanding of the proposal requirements.		
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Continue discussion next meeting- put on agenda		Anne O'Brien	ongoing
Gather data on practice numbers from VMS or collect it by calling.		Hunt Blair	

FUNDING

HUNT BLAIR

DISCUSSION	What funding sources have been identified? ARRA money? What are the requirements?	
Hunt identified the money sources that are potential for this project.		
Comparative Effectiveness Research funding potential... Dave Gruppo suggested working with UVM Researcher, Melody Burkins to include this aspect.		
CONCLUSIONS	Sect 3013 state money, CMS 90/10 money, VT eligible for discretionary funds?, private funding and the project itself being a revenue generating stream with a transaction fee.	
Challenge which exists is that the ARRA funding requirements are not written and likely will not be completed prior to the deadline of August 31.		
Because of the vagaries of ARRA related funding the work group will not be able to develop an actual grant proposal in this time frame, but its recommendations will constitute one of the chapters of the updated State HIT Plan and the work group plans to create a road map for how to move ahead in this area.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ongoing review of funding requirements availability from ARRA	Hunt Blair	ongoing
Set up meeting with UVM Research Division Director -Melody Burkins Ph.D.	Anne O'Brien	August 10

RESOURCES FOR PROJECT SUPPORT/WRITING PROPOSAL

DISCUSSION		Hans –Questioned funding for staff to write the proposal?	
There was originally funding included for staff however it was not funded in the final budget from the legislature. State does not have extra staff for this per Hunt Blair. No one around the table had resources to write and produce the proposal.			
CONCLUSIONS			
Anne O'Brien offered to be the central coordinator of the content for proposal.			
ACTION ITEMS		PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Template for outline of paper to start the proposal writing		Dave Gruppo, IBM	Email prior to next meeting

OBSERVERS	
RESOURCE PERSONS	Hans Kastensmith, Health Care Reform Consultant
SPECIAL NOTES	Meeting length was expanded by 30 minutes and all agreed that next meeting we will plan to meet July 22, 2009 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Following the meeting Hans and Alex indicated that they received approval from Peter Shumlin for \$15,000 to fund a staff person for this project.